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EXCERPT:

MRS. GEORGE BUSH has mixed feelings about her husband's appointment to head the CIA. In a letter dated right after the official announcement she wrote from Peking: "I am really feeling very sad about leaving this peaceful, happy, protected kind of life. I shall curl up every time I read or hear a mean word about George and he tells me that in this new job I'll see and hear one heck of a lot! Ugh!" Then later she added:

"I'm so proud of George. I love the way he takes on the worst jobs when asked by the President. (She meant, of course, he also took on the GOP chairmanship during Watergate). We both feel very strongly that the CIA is essential to the security and well-being of our country and therefore he must say "Yes" to this extraordinary request. I just hope that our kids and family don't suffer. They have been so good through it all so I guess they'll continue to hang in."

Since writing that, she must have curled up many times. Among the brickbats that have already been tossed at Bush was the recent article that claimed he could not fill the Rockefeller CIA Commission recommendation for "persons with the judgment, courage and independence to resist improper pressure and importuning." George Bush's friends in high places think one reason for his nomination was because he would always put principle and country above party.

As for any hope of the vice presidency, Barbara Bush dispenses with that in short order. Before the CIA appointment such a possibility was mentioned

in print in connection with Ford's anticipated trip to Peking. Writes Barbara, "that was about the shortest-lived campaign for V. P. in history!!!"